

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Currently Amended) An instrument assembly for use in orthopaedic surgery, comprising:
a component that is positionable within a body cavity to engage a bone, the component having an open end and at least one bar extending across the open end; and

a manipulator having at least one clasp for engaging a portion of the bar so as to fasten the component to the manipulator, the clasp comprising:

a plate having a plate surface and at least one hook extending away from the plate surface, the hook having a root whereat the hook connects with the plate surface, a free end, an undersurface, and a mouth defined between the free end and the plate surface, and wherein the distance between the undersurface of the hook and the plate surface decreases when measured from the free end to the root;

a collar having at least one pin extending upwardly therefrom; and

a spring disposed between the collar and the plate, the spring being configured to bias the collar toward the plate; and

wherein the hook, pin and spring ~~are~~ is configured such that, when the portion of the bar is disposed within the mouth and is moved relative to the plate from a first position, where the bar portion contacts the undersurface of the free end, to a second position toward the root, the hook and pin are automatically displaced relative to one another thereby enabling the portion of the bar to be moved to a third position between the root and the pin.

8. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 7, wherein the manipulator has a longitudinal axis, and the spring is configured to bias the collar toward the plate in a direction along the longitudinal axis.

9. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 7, wherein the collar, the plate and the spring are configured such that, when assembled together, the distal end of the at least one pin is located between the surface of the plate and the component.

10. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 7, wherein the thickness of the at least one hook is thinner at the free end as compared to the thickness proximal the root.

11. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 7, wherein the hook has a first portion and a second portion, and the distance between the undersurface of the hook and the plate surface decreases when measured from the free end to the root at a constant rate for the first portion.

12. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 11, wherein the distance between the undersurface of the hook and the plate surface is approximately constant for the second portion.

13. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 11, wherein the undersurface of the second portion of the hook and the plate surface are approximately parallel.

14. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 11, wherein the distance between the undersurface at the root of the hook and the plate surface is approximately equal to the thickness of the portion of the bar.

15. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 7, wherein the distance between the root of the hook and the pin is slightly greater than the width of the portion of the bar.

16. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 7, wherein the hook extends away from the plate at an angle defined by the plate surface and the undersurface of the hook, and the angle is not more than 40 degrees.

17. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 16, wherein the angle is about 15 degrees.

18. (Previously presented) The instrument assembly of claim 7, wherein the manipulator includes at least two clasps which are arranged rotationally symmetrically around a central point, and the component includes corresponding bar portions, so that the bar portions can be positioned in corresponding clasps by relative rotation between the component and the manipulator around the central point.